

Brief history of shortwave broadcasting in Cameroon

By Tony Rogers - tony [at] bdx.org.uk - Copyright British DX Club (January 2012)

There is seemingly no current shortwave broadcasting in Cameroon. Official shortwave broadcasting from **Cameroon Radio and Television** appears to have ceased with Radio Buea being the last heard (see below). CRTV national and regional stations are now only on FM (as detailed in WRTH 2012)

The first radio station in Cameroon was started in what was the French sector of the country in the early 1940's. This was located in the main seaport of Douala with just 150 Watts. After a break it was revived in 1946 and continued its low power operations until upgraded in 1955. From 1955, broadcasting in Cameroon was centred on the capital, Yaounde, and several provincial towns around the country. These were located as follows:

Yaounde: radio was established in the capital in 1955 by SORAFOM, the French agency responsible for implementing broadcasting aid projects overseas. Shortwave transmitters of 1 and 4 kW were initially installed and these remained in use for several years to come. A 30 kW shortwave transmitter was added in 1962. In 1977, a new transmitter of 100 kW was installed, which greatly improved the reach of the National Service and also saw the introduction of an International Service. Frequencies used by Yaounde in the 1970's, 80's and 90's included 4850, 4972, 6060 and 9745 kHz. The National Service from Yaounde was last reported in early 2000 on 4850 kHz.

Douala: a 1 kW shortwave transmitter was installed in Douala by SORAFOM in 1955. This gave several years service before eventually taken out of service, presumably due to its condition. In 1983, a new 100 kW shortwave transmitter was installed as part of a general upgrade for the station. This transmitter operated on 4795 and 7150 kHz and lasted for twelve years or so. It was last heard on shortwave in the mid-1990's. Radio Douala was referred to as the Litoral Provincial Station.

Garoua: SORAFOM set up a radio station in Garoua in 1958, which included a 4 kW shortwave transmitter. A 30 kW shortwave transmitter was added in 1964. In 1977 a new 100 kW transmitter was installed and replaced that of 30 kW, whilst the 4 kW transmitter remained on standby. Radio Garoua was the Northern Provincial Station and operated on 5010 and 7240 kHz. It was last heard in the late 1990's.

Buea: broadcasting in Anglophone Cameroon had always depended on the Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation for airing its programmes until a station was established in Buea in 1966. An initial 1 kW shortwave transmitter was soon increased to 4 kW and this operated on 3970 and 6005 kHz as the South-West Provincial Station. Radio Buea had been heard on 6005 kHz up until the early part of 2011 (reported daytime only 0700-1700), but James MacDonell in Niger State, Nigeria, commented to DXLD on 21 October 2011 "I have not heard the elusive Cameroon transmitter on 6005 [Buea] for several months now so I wonder if it is finally gone for good?"

Bertoua: the station at Bertoua was first heard on shortwave in 1977 when a 20 kW transmitter was installed. It operated on 4750 and 7195 kHz and was the Eastern Provincial Station of Radio Cameroon. Having been reactivated at least twice during its lifetime, the station was last heard in the mid-1990's.

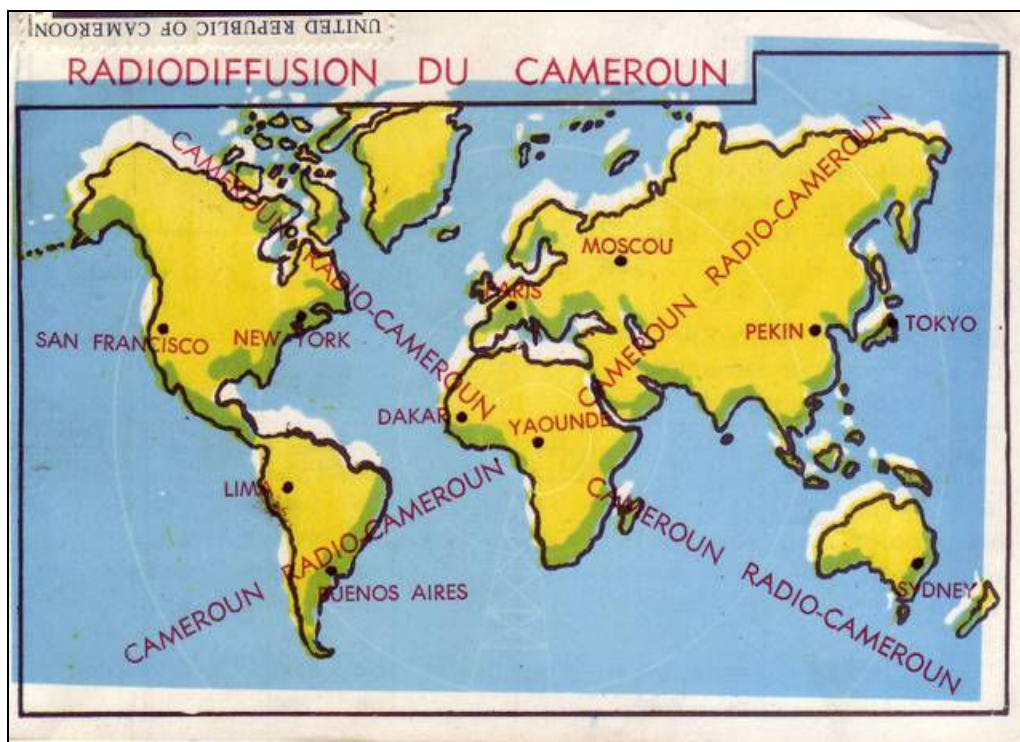
Bafoussam: as the Western Provincial Station, this was the last provincial radio station to be established in Cameroon on shortwave, coming on air in early 1980. It operated on 4000 and 5955 kHz with 20 kW. It was last heard in the mid-1990's.

There has been one opposition radio station targeting Cameroon in recent years. **Radio Free Southern Cameroons** had broadcast in support of the Coalition of Southern Cameroons Liberation Movements. Having started in October 2005, RFSC broadcasts were brokered by TDP via a 500 kW transmitter in Russia. It was last heard on 15695 kHz during the A-06 period.

CRTV radio news on demand

Although there is no live streaming from CRTV, the daily newcasts in English at 0630, 1500 and 1900 local time are available on demand from the CRTV website at www.crtv.cm

Below: Both sides of a QSL card from Radio Cameroon, Buea (3970 kHz) received by Dave Kenny in 1979. The same card was also used by the National Station in Yaounde.



Q. S. L.

Nous avons le plaisir de vous confirmer l'exactitude de votre rapport d'écoute du 22 Mai 1979 de 21.00 à 22.00 H GMT sur la fréquence 3970 Station de Buea

Ce dont nous vous remercions.

RADIO-CAMEROUN YAOUNDE

Imprimerie Nationale - Yaoundé — 654-78

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Station Nationale YAOUNDE		Station Internationale YAOUNDE		Station Provinciale YAOUNDE		Station Provinciale BUEA		Station Provinciale DOUALA		Station Provinciale GAROUA		Station Provinciale BERTOUA		Station Provinciale BAFOUSSAM	
KHZ	KW	KHZ	KW	KHZ	KW	KHZ	KW	KHZ	KW	KHZ	KW	KHZ	KW	KHZ	KW
6060	100(OC)	9745	100(OC)	4972,5	30(OC)	6005	2 x 4(OC)	1106	2 x 5(OM)	5010	100(OC)	7165	20(OC)		
4850	100(OC)			4972,5	4(OC)	3970	4(OC)			5010	4(OC)	4750	20(OC)		
899	20(OM)			7205	30(OC)					7240	100(OC)	971	20(OM)		
				7205	4(OC)					7240	4(OC)				
				998	2 x 5(OM)					1260	20(OM)				
				1285	1(OM)					1348	1(OM)				